7/13/88 S5624-2

New Mexico Labor Market Review

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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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Volume 17, No. 5, June 30, 1988
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New Mexico's unemployment situation continued to improve in May. The statewide unemployment rate declined from 8.4 to 8.0 percent, the lowest jobless rate for May since 1984. The number of unemployed in the state fell by 2,600 to a total of 55,400, while total employment expanded by 800 during the month. New Mexico's unemployment rate has continued to reflect modest but steady improvement since peaking at 10.2 percent in January 1987. The U.S. unemployment rate in May was 5.4 percent, up slightly from 5.3 percent in April but improved from 6.1 percent one year ago.

Our monthly sample of employers across New Mexico indicated a total payroll job gain of approximately 2,000 during May. All major industries except manufacturing and government reported employment increases during the month. Much of the hiring in May was in retail trade and services, both usual expansions for this time of year. Also expected was the employment loss in government, as educational institutions began to wind down for the summer.

Payroll reports from the construction industry in May indicated an increase of only 300 jobs during the month, a much smaller gain than usual for the spring. With fairly healthy job increases in both March and April, construction had shown signs of at least stabilizing; however, with this month's subpar gain, the industry seems to be continuing its long-term slowdown. Employment in the building industry is now down by 2,300 jobs over the year and down by over 9,000 jobs from its all-time high of 39,300 in mid-1985.

Mining added 100 jobs over the month, all in oil & gas extraction. Manufacturing, overall, saw no change in employment during May; however, within the industry, several notable changes occurred. On the positive side, seasonal hiring was posted in lumber, along with continued long-term growth in electronic equipment manufacturing. These gains were offset, however, by losses in the other durable goods category, the result of the ten percent workforce cutback at Honeywell, Inc. in Albuquerque.

All major industries in New Mexico, except construction, are reporting job growth over the year. The strongest industry continues to be manufacturing, with annual gains of 1,800 jobs or almost five percent. Transportation equipment and electronic equipment manufacturing are providing most of the growth in the industry. Following the manufacturing industry, in terms of growth rates, are trade, services, and mining - all with gains in the two percent range. Government and finance & real estate are both reporting modest gains of about one percent over the last twelve months.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	May 1988	Apr. 1988	May 1987	Apr. 1988	May 1987
Civilian Labor Force	690,200	692,000	685,300	-1,800	+4,900
Employment	634,800	634,000	623,100	+ 800	+11,700
Unemployment	55,400	58,000	62,200	-2,600	-6,800
Rate	8.0%	8.4%	9.1%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM MAY 1988	REVISED APR 1988	REVISED MAY 1987	MAY CHANGE FROM APR 1988	MAY CHANGE FROM MAY 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	539,300	537,300	531,500	2,000	7,800
MINING	15,300	15,200	14,900	100	400
Metal Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	-100
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,100	9,000	8,700	100	400
CONSTRUCTION	29,900	29,600	32,200	300	-2,300
MANUFACTURING	39,700	39,700	37,900	0	1,800
DURABLE GOODS	27,300	27,300	25,300	0	2,000
Lumber & Wood Products	2,700	2,600	2,600	100	100
Machinery(except electric)	2,600	2,600	2,300	0	300
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,500	5,400	4,800	100	700
Transportation Equipment	5,300	5,300	4,500	0	800
Other Durable Goods	11,200	11,400	11,100	-200	100
NONDURABLE GOODS	12,400	12,400	12,600	0	-200
Food & Kindred Products	3,500	3,500	3,900	0	-400
Textile & Apparel	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Other Nondurable Goods	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,900	28,800	28,700	100	200
TRANSPORTATION	13,000	13,000	12,800	0	200
Railroad Transportation	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
Trucking & Warehousing	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	100
Other Transportation	4,900	4,900	4,700	0	200
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,900	15,800	15,900	100	0
Communication	6,900	6,800	6,800	100	100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9,000	9,000	9,100	0	-100
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	130,600	128,900	127,600	1,700	3,000
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,900	22,700	22,800	200	100
Durable Goods	13,400	13,300	13,200	100	200
Nondurable Goods	9,500	9,400	9,600	100	-100
RETAIL TRADE	107,700	106,200	104,800	1,500	2,900
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,600	4,400	4,400	200	200
General Merchandise Stores	11,800	11,700	11,800	100	0
Food Stores	15,000	15,000	14,800	0	200
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,200	13,200	12,900	0	300
Apparel & Accessories	5,300	5,400	5,400	-100	-100
Furniture & Furnishing	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	41,800	40,700	39,700	1,100	2,100
Miscellaneous Retail	11,700	11,500	11,600	200	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,500	27,300	27,200	200	300
Banking	8,100	8,100	8,000	0	100
Insurance Carriers	3,800	3,900	3,800	-100	0
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	3,000	2,900	2,900	100	100
Real Estate	6,600	6,500	6,400	100	200
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,000	5,900	6,100	100	-100
SERVICES	125,600	125,000	122,800	600	2,800
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	11,200	11,100	11,600	100	-400
Personal Services	6,000	6,200	5,800	-200	200
Business Services	30,700	30,500	29,200	200	1,500
Health Services	31,100	31,000	30,500	100	600
Legal Services	4,400	4,400	4,200	0	200
Educational Services	5,600	5,600	5,400	0	200
Social Services	6,700	6,700	7,100	0	-400
Membership Organizations	6,200	6,100	6,400	100	-200
Other Services	23,700	23,400	22,600	300	1,100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	141,800	142,800	140,200	-1,000	1,600
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	30,200	30,000	30,800	200	-600
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	111,600	112,800	109,400	-1,200	2,200
State Government 2/	48,900	50,600	49,300	-1,700	-400
Local Government	62,700	62,200	60,100	500	2,600

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

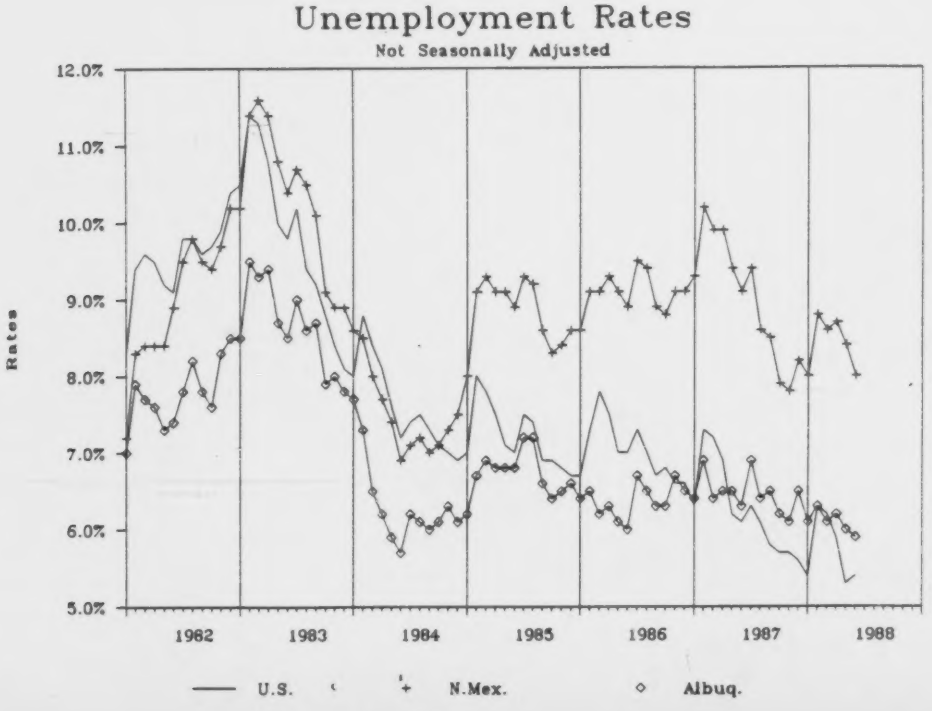
ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

The Albuquerque metropolitan area unemployment rate in May was 5.9 percent, down by one tenth of a percentage point from April. In comparison with the other two MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas) in the state, Albuquerque's jobless rate was in the middle - better than the 7.3 percent rate in Las Cruces but higher than Santa Fe's rate of 5.5 percent in May. Some of Santa Fe's low jobless rate can be attributed to the fact that it shares its labor force with the county which has the best unemployment rate in the state. Los Alamos county, with its government-dominated labor force, had an unemployment rate of 2.5% in May, while Santa Fe county's individual rate was 6.2%; the two areas combined to post the Santa Fe MSA rate of 5.5%.

Total nonagricultural employment in Albuquerque was up by 1,100 jobs over the month, with most of the gain coming in the trade industry as is usual for this time of year. Seasonal hiring at restaurants and fast food places, along with smaller increases in other types of retail trade, were responsible for the gain in trade. Over the year, the trade industry also led all major industries with an increase of 2,400 jobs or 4.1 percent. Eating and drinking places once again experienced the largest expansion - 1,500 jobs or almost ten percent annual growth. Across the country, eating and drinking places account for approximately 34 percent of total retail trade; in Albuquerque they represented almost 40 percent. Manufacturing, overall, lost 100 jobs during May as the previously-announced layoff at Honeywell, Inc. began to show up in the figures. Offsetting some of the Honeywell reduction, however, was hiring in electronic equipment, a continuation of the growth trend in that subsector.

Eagerly awaited reports from the construction industry indicate that it is continuing to experience fairly healthy springtime expansion. This is encouraging in light of the fact that the statewide construction figures for May were pretty dismal. However, construction employment in Albuquerque is still down by 800 jobs or five percent from this time last year. Interest rates, which are forecasted to rise through the remainder of this year, may hinder any significant recovery in the industry.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	May. 1988	Apr. 1988	May. 1987	Apr. 1988	May. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	265,400	265,200	260,900	+200	+4,500
Employment	249,800	249,400	244,500	+400	+5,300
Unemployment	15,600	15,800	16,400	-200	-800
Rate	5.9%	6.0%	6.3%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM MAY 1988	REVISED APR 1988	REVISED MAY 1987	MAY CHANGE FROM APR 1988	MAY CHANGE FROM MAY 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	236,700	235,500	231,300	1,200	5,400
MINING	200	200	200	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	15,400	15,100	16,200	300	-800
MANUFACTURING	20,400	20,500	19,900	-100	500
Durable Goods	14,900	15,000	14,500	-100	400
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,500	5,400	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,400	12,500	12,300	-100	100
Transportation	6,100	6,100	6,000	0	100
Communication	3,800	3,900	3,800	-100	0
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	61,400	60,300	59,000	1,100	2,400
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,300	14,100	14,300	200	0
Durable Goods	9,600	9,500	9,500	100	100
Nondurable Goods	4,700	4,600	4,800	100	-100
RETAIL TRADE	47,100	46,200	44,700	900	2,400
General Merchandise Stores	4,900	4,900	4,800	0	100
Food Stores	5,100	5,000	5,000	100	100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,800	4,700	4,600	100	200
Eating & Drinking Places	19,400	18,900	17,900	500	1,500
Other Retail Trade	12,900	12,700	12,400	200	500
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	15,100	15,000	14,900	100	200
Banking	3,400	3,400	3,200	0	200
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,400	7,300	7,500	100	-100
SERVICES	65,200	64,800	63,700	400	1,500
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,900	3,800	3,900	100	0
Personal Services	2,800	3,000	3,000	-200	-200
Business Services	21,200	21,000	20,600	200	600
Health Services	14,600	14,600	14,400	0	200
Social Services	2,800	2,800	3,000	0	-200
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100
Other Services	18,100	17,800	16,900	300	1,200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	46,600	47,100	45,100	-500	1,500
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,500	13,500	13,300	0	200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	33,100	33,600	31,800	-500	1,300
State Government	12,100	12,900	12,000	-800	100
Local Government	21,000	20,700	19,800	300	1,200

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM MAY 1988	REVISED APR 1988	REVISED MAY 1987	MAY CHANGE FROM APR 1988	MAY CHANGE FROM MAY 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	41,200	41,200	41,050	0	150
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,200	2,100	2,200	100	0
MANUFACTURING	3,850	3,750	3,900	100	-50
Durable Goods	1,550	1,550	1,600	0	-50
Nondurable Goods	2,300	2,200	2,300	100	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100
Transportation	500	500	550	0	-50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	850	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,600	8,550	8,100	50	500
WHOLESALE TRADE	900	900	850	0	50
RETAIL TRADE	7,700	7,650	7,250	50	450
General Merchandise Stores	850	850	900	0	-50
Food Stores	1,050	1,050	1,050	0	0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,050	1,050	950	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	3,200	3,100	2,800	100	400
Other Retail Trade	1,550	1,600	1,550	-50	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,700	1,700	1,650	0	50
SERVICES	6,700	6,750	6,150	-50	550
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	700	700	700	0	0
Business Services	1,500	1,450	1,250	50	250
Health Services	1,850	1,850	1,750	0	100
Social Services	250	250	250	0	0
Other Services	2,400	2,500	2,200	-100	200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16,800	17,000	17,600	-200	-800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,500	12,700	13,200	-200	-700
State Government	6,800	7,100	7,900	-300	-1,100
Local Government	5,700	5,600	5,300	100	400

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM MAY 1988	REVISED APR 1988	REVISED MAY 1987	MAY CHANGE FROM APR 1988	MAY CHANGE FROM MAY 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	55,150	54,500	53,500	650	1,650
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	2,500	2,300	2,500	200	0
MANUFACTURING	1,750	1,700	1,650	50	100
Durable Goods	1,150	1,100	1,050	50	100
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,250	1,250	1,150	0	100
Transportation	500	450	400	50	100
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	800	750	-50	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,950	10,750	10,450	200	500
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	850	800	0	50
RETAIL TRADE	10,100	9,900	9,650	200	450
General Merchandise Stores	900	950	1,000	-50	-100
Food Stores	1,150	1,150	1,250	0	-100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	800	800	50	50
Eating & Drinking Places	4,600	4,500	4,100	100	500
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,500	2,500	100	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
SERVICES	14,550	14,350	14,150	200	400
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,850	1,750	1,850	100	0
Business Services	3,300	3,200	3,300	100	0
Health Services	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
Social Services	600	600	600	0	0
Other Services	5,500	5,500	5,200	0	300
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22,100	22,100	21,500	0	600
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,500	20,500	19,900	0	600
State Government 3/	16,300	16,300	16,000	0	300
Local Government	4,200	4,200	3,900	0	300

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS
Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987
MINING	$509.35	$524.03	$480.67	42.2	42.5	40.7	12.07	12.33	11.81
CONSTRUCTION	$429.39	$432.62	$411.95	39.0	38.8	38.5	11.01	11.15	10.70
MANUFACTURING	$362.79	$362.50	$352.97	40.4	41.1	40.9	8.98	8.82	8.63
Durable Goods	$380.69	$381.49	$367.02	41.2	42.2	41.1	9.24	9.04	8.93
Nondurable Goods	$317.51	$311.28	$319.54	38.3	38.1	40.5	8.29	8.17	7.89
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$573.17	$580.60	$615.09	42.3	41.8	41.9	13.55	13.89	14.68
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$212.45	$221.03	$222.26	31.9	32.6	32.4	6.66	6.78	6.86
Wholesale Trade	$353.73	$362.56	$393.22	39.7	40.6	39.8	8.91	8.93	9.88
Retail Trade	$185.44	$193.75	$189.10	30.5	31.1	31.0	6.08	6.23	6.10
BANKING	$227.48	$229.67	$226.31	37.6	37.9	38.1	6.05	6.06	5.94
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987
MANUFACTURING	$381.51	$380.59	$367.57	41.2	41.1	41.3	9.26	9.26	8.90
Durable Goods	$403.43	$403.01	$383.93	42.2	42.2	40.8	9.56	9.55	9.41
Nondurable Goods	$310.46	$307.43	$318.00	38.0	37.4	42.8	8.17	8.22	7.43

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Beginning with the release of January 1988 data, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has shifted the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a new reference base year, 1982-84 = 100. Historical data for the CPI series on the new base are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Room 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

	May 1988	Apr. 1988	May 1987	Percent Change Apr.'88-May'88	Percent Change May'87-May'88
CPI-U	117.5	117.1	113.1	+0.3%	+3.9%
CPI-W	116.2	115.7	111.9	+0.4%	+3.8%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Area Economic Activity

Albuquerque Area: Furr's Inc. plans to close two stores in Albuquerque, along with one other in Las Cruces. The Albuquerque stores are the Save 'n Gain at 7601 Montgomery NE and the Furr's at 4700 Fourth NW. The employees at the closed facilities will be assigned to other stores in the area. Officials of Foley's Department Stores have announced a system-wide five percent workforce cutback. Foley's employs approximately 16,000 people in four states, 200 of which work at the Albuquerque store. The UNM Mental Health Center plans to close two community mental health facilities and lay off 24 employees. The cutbacks are the result of the increased number of indigent patients who have not been able to pay for care; patient fees represent nearly a third of the center's revenues. The Rio Rancho HAWK missile battalion will acquire 143 full-time soldiers who have been transferred from a Las Cruces National Guard unit; the unit was deactivated as a result of congressional cutbacks. The HAWK battalion, which currently numbers 210 full-time soldiers, is Rio Rancho's third largest employer behind Intel and J.C. Penney. An Albuquerque-based food processor, Hatch Farms, Inc., recently acquired MP Foods, Inc. of Lubbock, TX, the firm that markets the Mountain Pass label of Mexican food. Hatch Farms will relocate the MP Foods headquarters in El Paso to Albuquerque; the move will involve 10 to 15 jobs. Toys "R" Us Inc. plans to build a 46,000-square-foot store at Winrock Center. The store will employ between 55 and 85 people when completed in November. W & W Steel Co. Inc has laid off sixteen workers in June and plans to lay off an additional 92 employees sometime during July and August. A four-person sales office is all that will remain of the Albuquerque staff. Company officials stated that the high cost of workers' compensation insurance was a determining factor in the layoffs. Home Electronics Superstore in the American Square shopping center at Menaul and Carlisle closed its doors in June. The store had employed as many as 37 workers during the 11 months it was open; the store opened in August of last year. The Smith's grocery at 2025 12th St. N.W. closed in June. The 50 employees who had been working at the store will be reassigned to other Smith's stores. Country Club Plaza on Southern Boulevard in Rio Rancho is in the process of adding a 59,000 square feet. One of the first stores to occupy the new addition will be a Yellow Front department store.

Carlsbad / Artesia Area: A satellite training center proposed for Artesia, which would serve personnel from over 40 federal agencies, was given initial approval in Congress. A U.S. Senate Appropriations subcommittee has approved the expenditure of $7 million for the purchase and renovation of the former Artesia Christian College facility in Artesia. The appropriations bill that includes funding for the facility is expected to go before the full Senate and the House before the July 4 congressional recess, according to officials. New York City-based Trans-Resources Inc. will take over the Lundberg Industries potash operations near Carlsbad, in accordance with a reorganization plan approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Trans-Resources, which also operates New Mexico Potash Corporation, plans to change the name of the Lundberg mine to Eddy Potash Inc., and all of the 375 employees at Lundberg will remain on payroll, according to company officials. Lundberg Industries filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal Bankruptcy Code last year. The New Mexico Department of Labor office in Carlsbad received over 1,800 applications for the 170 positions that will be available when Mississippi Chemical Corporation reopens its area potash mine within the next few months. Mississippi Chemical announced plans in late May to reopen the mine. The mine has been idle for the last five years, and the company cited improved prices for potash resulting from a U.S.- Canada potash importing agreement signed last year as the main reason for the reopening. Since the U.S. - Canada agreement, potash prices have increased from $30 per ton to $80 per ton.

Clovis Area: Approximately 250 military and 15 civilian personnel have enrolled in the early out program at Cannon Air Force base. The program will cut approximately $2.8 million in base pay and $62.2 million in military benefits. The early out program was necessary because of reduced military appropriations.

Farmington Area: Valley Systems Division of General Dynamics will lease and operate a new assembly plant on the Navajo Reservation near Farmington. Construction of the new $5.8 million, 30,000-square-foot facility is expected to begin later this summer, and be in operation by the summer of 1989. The plant, which will assemble Stinger and Rolling Airframe missiles under a federal defense contract, is expected to employ up to 200 workers and generate a $3 million annual payroll.

Gallup Area: The Santa Fe Railway will move 115 workers from the Gallup area to Winslow, Arizona by September. After nearly two years of discussions between the United Transportation Union and the railway, a federal arbitrator was enlisted and ultimately ruled in favor of the railway. The union wanted to stay in state and move to Belen rather than Winslow. Construction of the new Travelers Motel on West Highway 66 is progressing on schedule. The 110-unit motel will be staffed by 20 to 25 employees when construction is completed in October of this year. The Navajo Tribe has started construction on shopping centers in Crownpoint, New Mexico, Windowrock, Arizona and Pinion, Arizona. The shopping center in Crownpoint will have 45,000 square feet and will employ 100 construction workers and 85 permanent positions. All three centers are scheduled for completion in the fall.

Grants Area: Bagdad Plastics Corp. closed its doors in June. The company had filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 bankruptcy status last July and was under new management in an attempt to become solvent. There were 45 employees working at the company.

Hobbs / Lovington Area: A $3.1 million classroom facility is scheduled to be built at New Mexico Junior College, starting in the next few months. The Robert Moran Energy/Technology Building will be the home of the college's petroleum technology and robotics programs, according to officials.

Las Cruces Area: The Furr's supermarket on Solano Dr. was closed on June 11, with most of the workers transferred to the remaining Furr's store and the Save'n Gain store in Las Cruces. The National Guard plans to build a new armory in Las Cruces. The armory will be the third largest in the state, with over 50,000 square feet of office, storage, training and assembly space. The new armory will be built at a cost of $3 million and be home to 400 Guard personnel. Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Co. opened a new facility, which employs about 20 persons, on Telshor Blvd. During June, the primary agricultural activities in the area centered around the onion harvest, weeding and thinning of the chile crop, and the second cutting of alfalfa. The lettuce harvest, which ended in June, was termed "poor" due to market conditions that forced approximately one third of the crop to be unharvested, according to local sources.

Las Vegas Area: Wal-Mart Inc. plans to build a 65,900-square-foot store on the Seventh Street extension in Las Vegas. The new store, which is expected to create 120 new jobs, will be the 16th Wal-Mart in the state. Construction should start this fall and be completed by the summer of 1989.

Raton Area: Negotiations for the sale of Kaiser Coal's York Canyon mine to Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Corporation broke down last month. Since then, Kaiser has laid off 24 salaried employees and approximately 90 miners. There are approximately 70 workers currently employed at the Mine.

Roswell Area: Transportation Manufacturing Corporation (TMC) has been awarded a $85 million contract for 491 city buses for the Chicago Transit Authority. Production is tentatively scheduled to begin in July of next year, with the delivery of the first bus to Chicago set for August, 1989. TMC is currently working on an order of 297 buses for the Southern California Rapid Transit District in Los Angeles. McCoy's Building Supply Center has opened in a new 15,000-square-foot facility on Main St. in Roswell.

Santa Fe Area: Front Row, a Texas-based clothing store, will take over the space in the De Vargas Center Mall that was left vacant when J.C. Penney moved out in 1986.

Silver City Area: A new $7 million tailings dam is being constructed by Chino Mines Company south of its plant site in Hurley.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The New Mexico Department of Labor was created during the 1987 legislative session by Senate Bill 407, as amended, and began operations on July 1, 1987. Headed by Cabinet Secretary Paul M. Garcia, the new Department comprises an Administrative Services Division and five program divisions: Employment Services; Job Training; Workers' Compensation; Human Rights; and Labor and Industrial. In this and future issues, the Labor Market Review will feature each of the Department's program divisions, briefly describing their functions and available services. This issue spotlights the **Human Rights Division.**

The mission of the Human Rights Division is to serve as the enforcement arm for the New Mexico Human Rights Act (1969), as amended in 1987. The division takes complaints from persons who claim unlawful discrimination by an employer of four or more persons doing business in New Mexico. Units of the Federal Government and Indian Tribes are not considered "employers" under the Human Rights Act. The division has three components: the Investigative Bureau, the Education Bureau, and the Administrative unit.

Discrimination is defined as adverse treatment in the hiring, promotion, compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment. Any adverse action based on one's race, color, age, national origin, sex, religion, ancestry, physical/mental handicap or medical condition will be identified as being a violation of the Act. Additionally, refusal of an employer to reasonably accommodate to the handicapped, or persons with a medical condition, is unlawful.

The Act also requires that the Human Rights Division promote an educational program for the purpose of eliminating the causes of discrimination and its harmful effects. Consequently, the division assists employers upon request with technical advisories on policy matters and current employment practices issues. The division will supply on-site training and workshop programs such as "What is Unlawful Discrimination," "Sexual Harassment", and "The Prevention of Discrimination."

The division is ready to serve the employer community and can be reached by calling 827-6838 in Santa Fe.

The division has one administrative office in the Aspen Plaza, 1596 Pacheco Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 875023, where it is collocated with the Department's Labor and Industrial and Job Training Divisions.

NEW PUBLICATION

The Bureau of Economic Research and Analysis has completed the New Mexico Occupational Supply/Demand Summary for July 1988. This semi-annual report provides information on the current demand for and availability of workers in various occupations in New Mexico. Occupational shortages and surpluses, and occupations with a large number of openings are provided for 19 cities in New Mexico. A statewide summary shows the most common occupational shortages and surpluses (see below), and a separate listing is provided specifically for occupational shortages in education and health.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

OCCUPATIONAL SHORTAGES	OCCUPATIONAL SURPLUSES	LARGE NUMBER OF OPENINGS
Companion, Live-in	Carpenter	Bagger
Cook	Cashier	Cashier
Licensed Prac. Nurse	Cashier/Checker	Cashier/Checker
Nurse's Aide	Clerk, General	Clerk, General
Occupational Therapist	Clerk, Sales	Construction Worker
Physical Therapist	Construction Wrkr	Cook
Registered Nurse	Laborer	Counter Attendant
Teacher, Bilingual	Operating Engineer	Housekeeper/Cleaner
Teacher, Special Ed.	Secretary	Laborer
Waiter/Waitress	Truck Driver	Licensed Prac. Nurse
	Welder	Material Handler
		Nurse's Aide
		Registered Nurse
		Waiter/Waitress

This report also provides a listing of occupations with the largest number of "job openings listed" and "applicants registered" with the Employment Service statewide. An excerpt is included from the soon to be published Occupational Outlook to 1995 that shows occupations expected to have the largest number of annual job openings from 1985 to 1995 for Albuquerque and New Mexico.

Free copies of the complete publication may be obtained from:

New Mexico Department of Labor
Bureau of Economic Research and Analysis
P.O. Box 1928
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

(505) 841-8645

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY MAY 1988				REVISED APRIL 1988				REVISED MAY 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	690,173	634,769	55,404	8.0%	692,052	634,046	58,006	8.4%	685,210	623,053	62,157	9.1%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	265,455	249,820	15,635	5.9%	265,185	249,378	15,807	6.0%	260,903	244,541	16,362	6.3%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	56,541	52,435	4,106	7.3%	56,631	52,436	4,195	7.4%	56,707	52,437	4,270	7.5%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	66,676	63,034	3,642	5.5%	67,383	63,592	3,791	5.6%	65,499	61,529	3,970	6.1%
Catron	1,263	1,156	107	8.5%	1,212	1,014	198	16.3%	1,202	1,072	130	10.8%
Chaves	23,297	21,738	1,559	6.7%	23,153	21,620	1,533	6.6%	22,610	20,586	2,024	9.0%
Cibola	8,789	7,769	1,020	11.6%	8,882	7,742	1,140	12.8%	9,237	7,942	1,295	14.0%
Colfax	7,228	6,193	1,035	14.3%	7,388	6,020	1,368	18.5%	6,904	5,989	915	13.3%
Curry	16,287	14,936	1,351	8.3%	16,292	14,898	1,394	8.6%	16,894	15,560	1,334	7.9%
De Baca	920	821	99	10.8%	932	826	106	11.4%	936	841	95	10.1%
Eddy	20,456	18,444	2,012	9.8%	20,015	18,039	1,976	9.9%	21,218	18,357	2,861	13.5%
Grant	10,682	9,756	926	8.7%	10,566	9,554	1,012	9.6%	10,188	9,147	1,041	10.2%
Guadalupe	1,599	1,376	223	13.9%	1,657	1,375	282	17.0%	1,701	1,416	285	16.8%
Harding	437	373	64	14.6%	447	375	72	16.1%	457	409	48	10.5%
Hidalgo	2,587	2,415	172	6.6%	2,617	2,411	206	7.9%	2,588	2,450	138	5.3%
Lea	22,034	20,462	1,572	7.1%	22,214	20,510	1,704	7.7%	22,941	20,233	2,708	11.8%
Lincoln	7,350	6,847	503	6.8%	6,377	5,821	556	8.7%	7,171	6,667	504	7.0%
Luna	5,708	4,888	820	14.4%	5,811	4,929	882	15.2%	5,828	4,903	925	15.9%
McKinley	17,483	15,378	2,105	12.0%	17,612	15,454	2,158	12.3%	17,304	15,210	2,094	12.1%
Mora	1,391	895	496	35.7%	1,452	898	554	38.2%	1,316	860	456	34.7%
Otero	18,985	17,353	1,632	8.6%	18,796	17,063	1,733	9.2%	17,942	16,511	1,431	8.0%
Quay	4,621	4,282	339	7.3%	4,622	4,255	367	7.9%	4,616	4,230	386	8.4%
Rio Arriba	13,870	11,430	2,440	17.6%	14,482	11,573	2,909	20.1%	14,559	11,628	2,931	20.1%
Roosevelt	7,196	6,704	492	6.8%	7,522	7,062	460	6.1%	7,004	6,587	417	6.0%
Sandoval	25,374	23,452	1,922	7.6%	25,530	23,491	2,039	8.0%	23,997	22,018	1,979	8.2%
San Juan	33,460	29,261	4,199	12.5%	33,716	29,265	4,451	13.2%	34,851	29,113	5,733	16.5%
San Miguel	10,148	8,859	1,289	12.7%	10,227	8,920	1,307	12.8%	10,238	8,854	1,384	13.5%
Sierra	2,589	2,441	148	5.7%	2,562	2,410	152	5.9%	2,639	2,424	215	8.1%
Socorro	5,865	5,279	586	10.0%	6,080	5,507	573	9.4%	6,018	5,425	593	9.9%
Taos	10,800	7,881	2,919	27.0%	11,182	8,160	3,022	27.0%	10,631	7,124	3,507	33.0%
Torrance	3,453	3,088	365	10.6%	3,459	3,079	380	11.0%	3,460	3,107	353	10.2%
Union	1,963	1,808	155	7.9%	2,001	1,840	161	8.0%	2,016	1,863	153	7.6%
Valencia	15,666	14,195	1,471	9.4%	16,047	14,529	1,518	9.5%	15,635	14,020	1,615	10.3%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

New Mexico Department of Labor
Economic Research and Analysis (CC 6097)
P.O. Box 1928
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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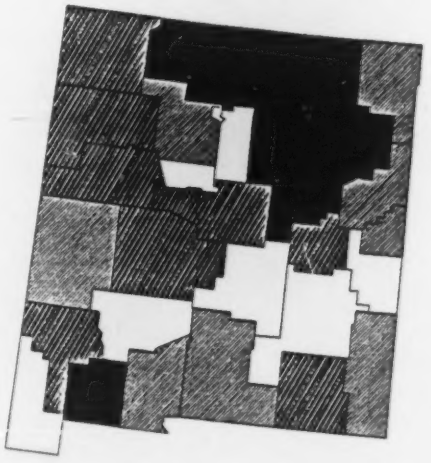
New Mexico
Unemployment Rates by Area
May 1988



Legend

- 5.5 to 7.1
- 7.1 to 8.7
- 8.7 to 12.7
- 12.7 to 36.7

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment & Training Administration, U. S. Department of Labor.